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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/648,376	08/25/2000	David W. Cannell	05725.0633-00	5418

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EXAMINER

WANG, SHENGJUN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1617

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2003

19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/648,376

Applicant(s)

CANNELL ET AL.

Examiner

Shengjun Wang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 and 53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4 and 27-49 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-26, 50, 53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Receipt of applicants' amendments and remarks submitted September 4, 2003 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-26, and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims as newly amended recite "wherein the weight ratio of said at least one cationic polymer to said at least one amphoteric polymer is greater than or equal to 3:1" (claim 1), or "wherein the weight ratio of said at least one cationic polymer to said at least one amphoteric polymer is greater than or equal to 2:1". The specification, or the claims, lacks support for such limitation. Particularly, there is no support for the ratio to be greater than or equal to 3:1. The examples herein merely disclose specific examples wherein the ration is 2:1. Further, there is no teach as to the ratio should be greater than, or less than 2:1.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5-26, 50, and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dubief et al. (US 5,799,456; IDS) in view of Cauwet et al. (US 5,656,258, of record), Grollier et al. (US 5,958, 392).

4. Dubief teach a cosmetic composition comprising ceramide compounds and a cationic polymer. The composition is particularly useful for protecting hairs. See, particularly, the abstract, and the claims. The elected ceramide and cationic polymer are particularly employed in a composition. See, particularly, example 7. The composition may further comprise other well-known cosmetic ingredients, such as thickener, preservatives, etc. The composition may be in various forms, such as liquid, cream, gel. The composition may be used before or after shampoo, perm, bleaching or dyeing. See, particularly, columns 8-9.

Dubief does not teach expressly the employment of amphoteric polymer in the composition, or polyquaternium-22, also known as MERQUAT 280.

However, Grollier et al. teaches the employment of a combination of cationic polymer and amphoteric polymer in hair cosmetic composition. Such combination has overcome many disadvantages of compositions using cationic polymer alone or using other combination. See, particularly, column 1, lines 16-59, and the claims. Among the disclosed amphoteric polymers are copolymers of acrylic acid and dialkylaminoalkyl acrylamide. See, column. 2, line 20 to column 6, lines 20. The cation polymers include the polymer herein elected. See, particularly, column 6, lines 21 to column 12, line 30. The molecular weight of the polymers are 500 to 2,000,000, and the amounts of such polymers employed in the cosmetic composition are 0.01 to

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10% by weight. See, particularly, the claims. Cauwet et al. teaches that polyquaternium-22, or MERQUAT 280 is a known amphoteric copolymer of acrylic acid and dialkylaminoalkyl acrylamide, and is particularly useful in hair treating composition with cation polymers. Cauwet also teaches the benefit of combination of cation polymer and amphoteric polymer in hair treating composition. See, particularly, the abstract, column 1, lines 49 bridging to column 2, line 65, column 3, lines 1-38, column 6, lines 10-28.

Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the claimed the invention was made, to employ a combination of the cation polymer and the amphoteric polymer herein in Dubief' composition.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ a combination of the cation polymer and the amphoteric polymer herein in Dubief' composition because of the advantage of the combination of cation polymer and amphoteric polymer disclosed by Grollier et al. and Cauwet et al. Further, making a kit comprising the composition herein and other hair treating composition, such as hair dyeing composition is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because such composition is known to be particularly useful before or after other hair treatment.

5. As to the particular ratio of the two polymers herein, note both Grollier et al. and Cauwet et al. teaches the benefit of the combination of cationic polymer and amphoteric polymers, and both teach a broad range of the ratio of the polymers. See, particularly, claim 1 in Cauwet et al. (any synergistic combination), and claim 16 in Grollier et al. (ratio of 10:1 to 1:10). It is well settled that in the case where the claimed ranges "overlap or lie inside ranges disclosed by the prior art" a prima facie case of obviousness exists. In re Wertheim, 541 F.2d

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257, 191 USPQ 90 (CCPA 1976); *In re Woodruff*, 919 F.2d 1575, 16 USPQ2d 1934 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (The prior art taught carbon monoxide concentrations of “about 1-5%” while the claim was limited to “more than 5%.” The court held that “about 1-5%” allowed for concentrations slightly above 5% thus the ranges overlapped.).

Response to the Arguments

6. Applicants’ remarks and amendments submitted September 4, 2003 have been fully considered, but are not persuasive.

7. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

8. The arguments regarding the particular ratio are moot in view of the new ground rejection.

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shengjun Wang, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-4554. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan, can be reached on (703) 305-1877. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4556.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

Patent Examiner



Shengjun Wang

November 8, 2003